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REVIEWED BY Ivan Izenberg DATE 10/5/81
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: PEOPLES-ARMY COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF ELECTIONS

1. PAC MET SATURDAY JUNE 24 IN ITS REGULAR MONTHLY SESSION TO DISCUSS BZOENERAT OBSERVATIONS ON COMING ELECTIONS." RAPPORTEUR WAS PAC SECRETARY-GENERAL LT. COL. PHAM NGOC LOI. COL. LOI'S SOMEWHAT DISJOINTED PRESENTATION, AND DEBATE WHICH FOLLOWED, WAS UNINSPIRED.

AFTER SUMMARIZING ADVANTAGES OF POPULARLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT, LOI OUTLINED VARIOUS GENERAL ISSUES FOR PAC CONSIDERATION, INCLUDING RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF VOTERS, PROS AND CONS OF CENSORSHIP, ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN ELECTIONS, AND LOWER HOUSE ELECTION LAW. WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER, LOI REMINDED PAC THAT PRESIDENTIAL AND SENATORIAL ELECTION LAWS HAVE BEEN PROMULGATED AND WILL NOT BE CHANGED. HOWEVER, HE ASSERTED THA[illegible] BY POINTING OUT SHORTCOMINGS OF THOSE LAWS, [illegible] HELP BRING ABOUT A BETTER LOWER HOUSE ELEC[illegible] LOI INVITED PAC MEMBERS TO DISCUSS FOLLOWING POINTS: CONSTITUENCIES FOR LOWER HOUSE (P[illegible] DISTRICT); NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN LOWER HOU[illegible]ON OF DEFINING IN LOWER HOUSE ELECTORAL LAW [illegible] PLAYED BY POLITICAL PARTIES; VOTING PROC[illegible]R ELECTION OF ETHNIC MINORITY REPRESENTATIVES.

2. FOLLOWING LOI'S PRESENTATION, VNYDD LEADRE, NGUYEN TUONG BA, PRESENTED A LIST OF SIX RECOMMENDATIONS DESIGNED TO INSURE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS. BA PROPOSED: 1) THAT

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A LAW BE PROMULGATED PUNISHING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR MISDEEDS IN ADMINISTERING ELECTIONS; 2) THAT THE UN BE INVITED TO SEND ELECT ON OBSERVERS/; 3) THAT MEASURES BE TAKEN TO "BROADEN" INTERNATIONAL PRESS COVERAGE OF ELECTIONS; 4) THAT "FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION" BE APPLIED IMMEDIATELY, TO INCLUDE ABOLISHING CENSORSHIP DURING CAMPAIGN PERIOD, INSURING AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF NEWSPRINT, AND GIVING EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSIBILITY FOR CENSORSHIP AND FOR PENALIZING VIOLATORS; 5) THAT EACH PRESIDENTIAL SLATE BE ALLOWED TO PUBLISH A NEWSPAPER; AND 6) THAT ASSISTANCE BE GIVEN TO GENUINE NAT ONALIST PARTIES DURING CAMPAIGN PERIOD.

3. STATUS OF BA'S RECOMMENDATIONS IS UNCLEAR. THEY WERE NOT DISCUSSED ON JUNE 24,/ AND ON JUNE 26 PAC SWITCHED TO A DISCUSSION OF "UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY."/ ACCORDING TO COL. LOI, PAC WILL CONTINSE WITH THE LATTER TOPIC JUNE 27, FINAL DAY OF JUNE SESSION (PAC MEETING PLACE WILL BE PRE-EMATED JUNE 28 BY NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE) LOI ASSUMES PAC WILL NOT RETURN TO QUESTION OF ELECTIONS UNTIL ITS NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY SESSION.

4. NOMMENT: PROPOSALS OF NGUYEN TUONG BA ARE REELISTIC AND RELEVANT. THEY DESERVE FULLER TREATMENT THAN THEY WERE GIVEN. KOWEVER, WITH EXECPTION OF BA'S CONTRIBUTION PAC EFFORT FOR DUNE WAS NOT VERY PRODUNTIME. IN FACT IT HAS BEEN CLEAR FOR SOME TIME NOW THAT THE PAC'S USEFULNESS AS A SOUNDING BOARD FOR THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. IT IS HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME TRYING TO FIND A MEANINGFUL AND INDEPENDENT ROLE FOR ITSELF IN THIS TRANSITIONAL KERIOD AND ITS DIFFICULTIES ARE CLEARLY EMINENT IN ITS LACKLUSTRE PERFORMANCE.

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: JUNE 26 SESSION

REF: SAIGON 2859

1. BY VOTE OF 39 IN FAVOR ON SECOND BALLOT NA AGREED TO PROPOSAL BY DIRECTORATE AND SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION TO SIMPLIFY BALLOT FOR SENATORIAL ELECTION. SIZE OF BALLOT WILL BE REDUCED AND REQUIREMENT FOR PERFORATIONS AND NUMBERING OF EACH BALLOT WILL BE DELETED.

2. NA THEN BEGAN DEBATE ON "BASIC PRINCIPLES" OF LOWE HOUSE ETECTION LAW. THERE WAS LENGTHY DISCUSSION ON MOST SUITABLE DATE TO HOLD LOWER HOUSE ELECTION. A NUMBER OF DEPUTIES PROPOSED SEEKING REAFFIRMATION OF DIRECTORATE'S VIEWS ON ELECTION DATE BEFORE TAKING VOTE. HOWEVER, THIS SUGGESTION WAS DISREGARDED AND BY VOTE OF 39 IN FAVOR ON SECOND BALLOT NA DECIDED TO SET LOWER HOUSE ELECTION DATE AT NOVEMBER 5, 1967. (16 DEPUTIES VOTED FOR ALTERNATIVE DATE OF OCTOBER 15. IN FIRST BALLOT ONLY 10 DEPUTIES VOTED FOR OCTOBER 1 DATE, WHICH IS ONE FAVORED BY DIRECTORATE, AS AGAINST 19 FOR OCT15 AND 12 FOR NOVEMBER 5. THUS, DATE ADVOCATED BY DIRECTORATE ELIMINATED BEFORE DEPUTIES VOTED ON MATTER A SECOND TIME.)

3. NA WILL RECONVENE JUNE 27 TO CONTINUE DEBATE ON LOWER HOUSE LAW. WE WILL TRANSMIT OUR TRANSLATION OF DRAFT LAW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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